

## SPORTS

REBEL  
YELL

"What counts is not necessarily the size of the dog in the fight - it's the size of the fight in the dog."

- Dwight D. Eisenhower

## Dumas gets Sun-burned

BY CHRIS JONES  
STAFF COLUMNIST

It's been a busy off-season for the Phoenix Suns.

Although the season is still weeks away, the defending Western Conference champions have managed to stay in the headlines throughout the summer. The addition of A.C. Green and the loss of Tom Chambers have been news, but nothing has set the city of Phoenix on fire like the situation surrounding a second-year player with a problem.

A few weeks ago the NBA revealed that Phoenix guard Richard Dumas had once again fallen into trouble with drugs (Dumas, a 1991 draft pick, didn't play in the NBA until last season due to drug-related problems). The league also announced that Dumas would re-enter a drug treatment center and would be forced to sit out the upcoming season.

Dumas had a brilliant year for the Suns in 1992-93 and his loss was a considerable setback to his team's chances of returning to the NBA Finals next June. But Dumas' main value to the Suns would have put him in another uniform.

Many teams in the NBA held Dumas in high regard and wanted to trade for the talented guard who averaged 15.8 points per game as a rookie. The Suns were trying to swing a deal with the Detroit Pistons which would have sent Dumas (and some combination of players and/or draft picks) to Detroit in exchange for disgruntled Piston forward Dennis Rodman.

Such a trade would have benefited the Suns immensely. Rodman would have shored up the Suns' weakness at the forward spot opposite Charles Barkley and given the team a much-needed rebounder.

But all of this went out the window when Dumas relapsed.

Because of Dumas' questionable future, the Suns no longer had the trade-bait to acquire Rodman and were forced to sign the high-priced free agent A.C. Green away from the Los Angeles Lakers. The Green signing left L.A. in a daze and prompted the Pistons to deal Rodman to the San Antonio Spurs for Sean Elliot last Friday.

It's amazing, but one player's problems have affected the make-up of four teams for next season.

Before the dust had a chance to settle, the Suns organization manifested no concern for Dumas' best interests. Instead they took aim and fired at whatever target they could blame for ruining their deal for Rodman.

Target A-No. 1 was John Lucas, former NBA player and drug addict who now runs one of the most successful drug rehabilitation centers for athletes in the country. The fact that Lucas, who is also head coach of the Spurs, would be counseling Dumas to set off one of the more slanderous and insulting incidents in recent memory.

Members of the Suns' management, including Coach Paul Westphal, accused Lucas of having "an obvious conflict of interest." They disapproved of having an op-

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posing coach dealing with the treatment of their player, regardless of whether or not Lucas was the most capable person to aid in Dumas' recovery.

These same people alleged that Lucas would keep Dumas out of action in order to enhance the Spurs' chances of beating the Suns next season. They also accused Lucas of interfering in Phoenix's efforts to obtain Rodman by casting doubts about Dumas in order to scare off any possible interest in a trade. The Suns urged the NBA to look into possible wrong-doings.

Even with the suspicious circumstances of the Spurs obtaining Rodman, the NBA has so far cleared Lucas of any violations, but basketball is hardly the important issue in this case.

A full understanding of this circus requires one to step outside the world of sports.

For anyone to accuse Lucas of anything other than helping Dumas to a full recovery is ridiculous. Lucas knows first-hand the dangers of drug abuse and has a proven record of helping those who come under his care.

The Suns have been so busy throwing accusations that they have overlooked the young man who is the center of this storm. It's apparent Dumas needs help and support to recover, yet Phoenix has put Dumas' concerns on the back burner in order to take care of winning a few basketball games.

Perhaps Lucas best described the situation when he told *NBA Today*, "They (the Suns) aren't thinking clearly. I think they're thinking about winning more so than about helping Richard Dumas...It doesn't make sense."

Dumas deserves better treatment.

The Suns' organization deserves a lesson about what really matters in life.

## CORRECTION

The story titled "Straight Down braves murky waters to claim Oozeball championship" was written by Scott Haverlock, not by Scott Gulbransen.

## Wolf Pack mauls Rebels, 49-14

BY SCOTT GULBRANSEN  
STAFF WRITER

RENO — Ugly.

That is the first word that comes to mind when speaking of UNLV's 49-14 loss to the Wolf Pack of Nevada. The Rebels dropped to 1-4 (0-1 in Big West Conference play) and seem to be fading fast in the race for the Big West crown.

As the day began, the Rebels appeared lean and ready to take on their intrastate rival. But once the Wolf Pack got the opening kickoff, the Rebels collapsed and suffered the second biggest loss during the Jim Strong era. (The worst loss under Strong was a 50-8 loss at Nevada in 1991.)

The big story of the day was Nevada quarterback Chris Vargas, who set three school records with one of the best performances a Division I quarterback has had this season. Vargas completed 30 of 39 passes for 538 yards and seven touchdown passes before leaving in the third quarter. Vargas set the Wolf Pack record for both touchdown passes and passing yards.

The Nevada quarterback also had great support from his team's running game. Wolf Pack running back Marcellus Crishon ran for 102 yards in the first half, 93 of which were in the first quarter. That allowed Nevada to open their passing game and destroy the Rebels on the ground and especially in the air.

Along with three Nevada records set, a new Big West record was set on the sunny Saturday afternoon. The Wolf Pack gained 794 total yards eclipsing the old record held by former Big West member San Diego State. Nevada also had their third largest crowd in Mackay Stadium history with 26,866 in attendance.

Rebel defensive back Rodney Mazion attributed Nevada's success to the timing patterns the Wolf Pack implemented.

"That was the first team we played that ran timing patterns like that," Mazion said. "It was tough to get a beat on anybody today."

As with all Rebel football games this year, there was an emotional turning point that seemed to change momentum. With the Wolf Pack up 7-0 in the first quarter, quarterback Chris Vargas threw an ill-advised pass that wound up in the hands of Rebel defensive star Erik Simein. Simein could not hold on to the bullet from Vargas and the quarterback threw a four-yard strike to Tom Matter on the next play to give the Wolf Pack a 14-0 lead. Momentum stayed on the side of Nevada for the remainder of the contest as they scored 49 unanswered points.

Finally, at 8:38 left in the fourth quarter Bob Stockham hit Demond Thompkins with a beautiful 25-yard pass for the Rebels first score. Jason Davis then failed to run in the two point conversion and the Rebels settled for six points. Dion Thompson closed out the scoring for the Rebels as he ran back a 65-yard interception return

for a touchdown.

After the game, Coach Jim Strong commented on the severity of the Rebel defeat.

"We were totally dominated," Strong said. "This UNR football team is a good one. They came out today and executed their game plan to perfection."

UNR's Coach Jeff Horton went as far as to say the Rebels were finished for the season after the devastating loss at the hands of his Wolf Pack team.

"It is going to be tough for them to keep the support of the community after a loss like this," Horton said. "They're also going to have problems keeping their kids focused for the remainder of the season."

The loss was a costly one for the Rebel team. Their record falls to 1-4 and, to equal last year's 6-5 record, the Rebels must go 5-1 to finish out the season. That will be tough as the Rebels face pre-season Big West favorite, Utah State and conference-leading Northern Illinois in the second half of 1993.

The Rebels finally get a home stand as they face Cal State Northridge, Utah State, and New Mexico State in succession at the Silver Bowl.

The Rebels high points were few and far between. Rebel running back Omar Love rushed 11 times for an impressive 87 yards. Starting quarterback Bob Stockham finished an injury-plagued day 8 of 26 for 121 yards. Jason Davis, on relief, finished up the day 6-15 for 31 yards.

## Rebel Report Card

Week 5: Vs. Nevada

D-

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**It was extremely painful watching my Rebels lose like they did. It is impossible to progress without stumbling sometimes. The students in Football 101 did not do well in Reno this week. No more field trips for a while. Now to the card:**

**Quarterback C-** Bob Stockham was hit hard and knocked unconscious again. If not for his injury he might have rallied the Rebels. Jason Davis did an adequate job replacing the injured Stockham. The QB position did not have the chance to play an important part in the game.

**Running Backs A+** Omar Love continues to build momentum with each game. He only carried the ball 11 times but still managed to gain a whopping 87 yards. If the Rebel offensive line had one of their typical games, Omar might have gained over 100 yards. He

should be carrying the ball 30 times a game. Omar is the man.

**Tight Ends Incomplete** The Rebel tight ends really did not have a chance to be involved in this game. That is why they received an incomplete.

**Offensive Line D+** For the first time this season the Rebel offensive line did not show up. Stockham was hit hard and the only highlight was the run blocking for Omar Love. Offensive line coach Mike Bender lost his cool after the game screaming at a member of Student Government. Apparently Bender thought the student leader insulted his wife. He lost his cool and it showed. Shake it off Coach Bender.

**Kicking A** Once again Brad Faunce was the star of the show. He only got to kick off a couple of times, but his punting was phe-

nomenal. Several times I saw his punts sail 60 yards in the air. ESPN better give this guy some coverage. He will be an NFL kicker.

**Defensive Line D** The line looked tired and weary. It appears four out of five on the road was a little too much for the bunch. They have talent but with any intensity it is hard to win.

**Tiger Townes A+** Tiger Townes gets his own grade because he really played a step above. His intensity and passion for the game were still intact when the Rebels were down 49-0. If you have never met Tiger, introduce yourself. He is not only a great football player but a great individual.

**Linebackers D** UNLV's linebacking corps was not seen in Reno. They seemed to lack emotion from the get go. It looks like they need rest.

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